has now been in existence only for a year. Experiments are proceeding, both in British India and other Native States, in the task of associating the people with the Government. In no field of human activities is the maxim '*Hasten slowly*' more applicable than in the field of constitutional changes. The welfare and prosperity of the subjects of the State depend in a large measure on this. We will, therefore, do well to benefit by the success of these experiments elsewhere rather than jeopardise the stability of the administration by hasty innovations. The time we have lived through, though full of promise, has not been, I believe, sufficiently long to justify further trials.

Communal questions.—These have come in for a good deal of observation in the course of the debate, and they hinge on two points, viz., distribution of appointments and social disabilities. Both aspects of the question have been touched upon frequently on previous occasions, and I am afraid there is nothing new to say on the subject. We cannot, however, ignore the fact that the history of the last thirty years will bear ample evidence to the fact that the Government have taken the initiative and supplied the propelling force to employ, in larger numbers, members of the so-called depressed classes in Government service and to minimise the rigour of social disabilities. Regretable as these disabilities may be—and they are to-day comparatively small—any one with a sense of responsibility will hesitate to remove them with a stroke of the pen. Social disabilities are no monoply of the Cochin State, and every country in the world shares it in one form or other. They die hard with the wakening and progress of the people, and if I am not mistaken, the changes in Cochin have taken place more quickly and quietly than in other places. This is a point on which we must congratulate ourselves.

Expenditure on Establishment.—The criticism on this score has been general, and the Special Finance Committee is considering this along with other questions. Without prejudicing the possible conclusions of that body, I venture to ask what is the secret which has secured the administration of Cochin that purity and progress which many of the members have claimed for it? If my diagnosis is correct, I will say that the secret is that we pay the higher grade of our officers adequately, and this keeps them above wants and temptation so that they can do their duty without fear or favour. Once apply your pruning knife to it, and you will be lucky, if you still continue to maintain the present moral stamina of the administration.

In regard to low-paid servants, the Government are fully alive to their grievances, and the sooner they are remedied the better for

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the administration of the State. But the question is one which involves a good deal of expenditure, and therefore, the Government have deemed it expedient to wait, if possible, for the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee on this score. I may, however, state that the question will meet with the sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—May I ask the Government, whether so far as the depressed classes are concerned, there is not any idea of amelioration of their social condition ?

From the answer given by the Secretary, I could infer that we are to wait. Things are changing gradually, and there is no relief at present from the trend of his argument ; that is, we are to wait and wait.

President.—Constitutional reforms will only be effected slowly. For the amelioration of the social condition, all possible steps will be taken.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Of course, there are certain very prominent disabilities such as prohibition to walk through the public roads. Will the Government be kind enough to take any immediate steps to remove them? Am I to understand that we are to wait ?

President.—You need not have to wait in such matters.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—We have waited 5,000 years, and there is no more patience for us to wait.

President.—Have you to say anything about the educational policy ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Sir, with your permission, I should like to make a few observations on the remarks made by the Hon'ble Members on matters connected with the department of which I am in charge.

As I said last year, we welcome criticisms from Hon'ble Members of the other side. (*Hear, hear.*) It is to our common interest and advantage that we should know their views, and it is our duty when we know them to try and satisfy them, as far as existing conditions will permit, and as far as it lies within our powers. (*Hear, hear.*)

As several of the Hon'ble Members have pointed out, this State has, for a long time, been persistently following a very liberal policy in regard to education. (*Hear, hear* .) If the intention of the Government was to deprive the people of their rights, if the Government were reluctant and unwilling to take people into their confidence and to give them the rights and

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privileges that are due to them, I think the Government would have pursued a different policy altogether in regard to education.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No one of us charged?

Mr. C. Matthai.—No, no. I am simply stating facts; that is all. Well, we say it is our duty to satisfy the members, the non-official members of this House. I say it because they sit here as the chosen representatives of His Highness' subjects, to promote whose welfare we are all pledged, whether we happen to sit on the official side of this House or on the non-official side. The Government, as I said, have been pursuing this persistently liberal policy in regard to education, so that they may prepare the ground. Members who pleaded for higher powers, who advocated that the people should be taken into the confidence of the Government, they supported this contention by pointing out that we had reached an advanced position, in regard to education, a pre-eminently advanced position. And they pointed out that fact to justify their claims. Well, as I said, if the Government were jealous of retaining all powers in their own hands, and if they were reluctant to give the people what was their due, they could have pursued a very much smoother and less expensive course. What has actually been done is that, for the spread of education and enlightenment, which is an absolutely necessary condition for political advancement, the Government have almost strained their financial resources, so that we cannot accuse Government of not doing their duty in preparing the ground for what is so vehemently asked for. As the Secretary to the Diwan pointed out, these things require time for development, and there is a great deal of danger in doing things before the time is mature. But I don't think any—not even the most enthusiastic members on the other side—need have any doubts as regards the intentions of His Highness' Government.

Well, Sir, passing on to matters connected with my own department, I find I have noted a few points on which comments were made by the Hon'ble Members on the other side. One was regarding the proportion, the alarming proportion that educational expenditure was taking in the State. Well, I think, to make a correct estimate, to gauge the situation correctly, we should not go by the gross expenditure on education, In the budget estimate for 1102, 12 lakhs and 68 thousand rupees is put down for Education in 1102. But, as a matter of fact, we find that 3 lakhs and 30 thousand is income from schools in the shape of fee receipts. And, therefore, it would not be quite legitimate to take the 12 lakhs and 68 thousand which is the gross expenditure as the real expenditure on Education.

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As a matter of fact, we cannot say what exactly the income is now, but as regards the expenditure on Education, the estimate that has been made for next year is not going to be the actual expenditure. We have a certain number of posts that are sanctioned but remain unfilled. And according to technical rules, we have got to include them all in the budget of the year. As a matter of fact, you will see that every year the revised estimate is less than the budget estimate for this reason. If you take the figures for 1101, you will find the revised estimate is less than the budget estimate by about Rs. 40,000 so that, when we come to the end of the year 1102, the actual amount that we would have spent on Education would be somewhere about 12 lakhs. And then you have to deduct 3 lakhs and 30,000, the income from fees, so that it is a little less than 9 lakhs that is going to be the actual burden on the State in regard to Education.

As to whether this is an extraordinary and unjustifiable burden on the resources of the State, opinions may differ. But I may point out this fact that we are not spending more on Education than other progressive States in South India. I had occasion to go through the figures for Mysore, for Travancore, and I do not think that we are extravagant in regard to educational expenditure, compared with those progressive States in South India.

And then, another charge was——

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Compared with areas and population?

Mr. C. Matthai.—We take the total income of the State and the expenditure on Education.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I have got the figures.

Mr. C Matthai.—It is only approximate. There is, of course, this difference, this point, to be noted. In *the Administration Reports of Mysore and Travancore*, you get the figures only for last year, whereas, here, we are dealing with the printed budget of our State which relates to the expenditure for next year.

And then, another charge is that we are spending unduly upon Collegiate Education and Secondary Education.

Well, this point was urged last year, and I tried to explain it. Even here you cannot go by the gross expenditure. You find that you spend one lakh and 8 thousand upon the College. But you have to deduct the fee income there, so that you will find that you are not spending much more than 58 thousand on Collegiate Education. Well, in a State of the size and resources

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of ours, the question is whether Rs. 58,000 for Collegiate Education is too big a slice. As a matter of fact, Mysore is spending more. Mysore gives a contribution of 7 lakhs for its University alone. That, of course, you will not find in the *Reports of the Education Department*. Then, on the top of that, they spend for the Colleges which come within the Education Department budget. In Travancore, there are several First Grade Government Colleges, the Training College, and so on, so that they also spend more upon Collegiate Education.

Then, as regards Secondary Education, the complaint is that we are spending an extraordinary amount on Secondary Education. There also we have to take the fee income. And then, we find, on Secondary Boys' Schools we are spending only about Rs. 80,000—Secondary Boys' Schools, both Sirkar and aided. Altogether, we have got 36 High Schools in the State, and these High Schools we man not inefficiently, I should think. On the whole, we are spending about Rs. 80,000 on our Boys' High Schools. Well, is that an unduly high figure? And on Secondary Girls' Schools, I admit, we spend about Rs. 60,000. We have got only five *plus* two—five Government, and two aided—High Schools for Girls. And we spend Rs. 60,000 on them. Of course, as I tried to explain last year, we have to spend more on Girls' Schools, for there is very little in the shape of income. Is it not worth while? Most of us will agree that girls' education is, perhaps, a more important factor than boys' education, and we should not grudge what we are spending on girls' education so that, ultimately, you will find, after all, of 8 lakhs and 8,000 which is our net expenditure on Education, more than about six lakhs we are spending upon elementary education. More than 75 per cent of our educational expenditure goes towards elementary education, so that advocates of mass education and of the elevation of the depressed classes, I think, have no grounds to find fault with the educational policy of the State.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Girls' education has ceased to be backward now.

President.—Is it your proposal that they should pay regular fees? You, please, take note of the suggestion.

Mr. C. Matthai.—Well, I doubt, Sir, whether the time has come for us to withdraw the concessions that we make towards girls' education. Sir, you might remember that I discussed that subject with you. My fear was this. As it is, our Girls' Schools are poorly attended. The number in a High School Form is something like 15 or 16 or at the outset 20. In some schools, it is much more. On an average—put it at 30—

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we have 30 girls in each of our Secondary Forms. Well, suppose, by introducing full fees, you reduce that number to 15, (you cannot depend on the same number attending, if you double the fees), so that you must be prepared for a reduction of numbers, at least by half. Well, then, there is this fact that you are educating only half the number. Do you gain anything? Instead of getting half-fee from 30 girls, you can get full fee from 15. Because the number has gone down, you cannot abolish either the teacher or the class; so that, after all, it is no gain to the Government. It is a loss this way, that we shall be educating only half the number of girls that we are educating now. As I was going to say, we are spending upon elementary Malayalam education for boys 4 lakhs and 40,000. We are spending on elementary education for girls one lakh and 32 thousand. We are spending on the Training School Rs. 30,000. This is practically an expenditure for elementary education, because the Training School is intended for training teachers of the Primary department; so that you will find about 6 lakhs go entirely for elementary education. I do not think any reasonable man can accuse our Government of forgetting the interests of the poor and the neglected, and of spending enormous proportions of the State revenues in giving higher education to well-to-do classes.

And then, the member who represents the backward classes, I mean the member who represents the Ezhuva community, mentioned this fact, that there are 10 schools that are not open to the members of his community. Well, I remember, last year, he asked for figures, and I made enquiries and found out that there were 10 schools, which, owing to their position, could not give admission to members of his community; but to-day, I find that number is less by 2. We have been able to throw two more schools open to all classes, which shows that we are progressing in this direction. If you will recollect the state of things about 20 years' ago, you had such a large number of schools; in fact, 30 per cent of the schools of the State were then set apart for certain castes. They were not open to pupils of all castes. But, now, in the course of 20 years, we have more than 500 schools in the State, and there remain only eight of this kind, and these eight, simply because of their position, owing to their proximity to temples. For instance, there are the T. D. High School and the Girls' School in Mattancheri, by the side of the temple, where certain castes cannot go. There was a school at Urakam which was within the temple premises. Now, we have had it shifted outside the temple, so that the number is less by one that way.

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President.—There is one at Tiruvilluamala?

Mr. C. Matthai.—That one still remains, Sir.

Then there is the Paliam High School. That also, on account of its position, could not admit pupils of certain classes.

President.—I suppose, in course of time, it is possible.

Mr. C. Matthai.—At Chennamangalam they have constructed a new building so that the school is now thrown open to all classes. We are not at all indifferent to this matter. We are trying to do our utmost to remove all these disabilities and hardships.

President.—You have to run over other points. Your time is only very short.

Mr. C. Matthai.—And then, he mentioned about the poor representation of his community in public service. Well, so far as the Education Department is concerned, I do not think he can accuse us of neglect of his community. Of course, for a long time, we could not find qualified men in the community, which is no longer the case; and but even that, I think is much to the credit of the Government, for if the Government had not provided facilities for the higher education of his community, they would not have been in a position to urge their claims as they do now.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—We are very thankful to the Government for that purpose.

Mr. C. Matthai.—Let us give the Government the credit that is due to them.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It is because you throw open certain schools that ve ask to throw open all schools.

Mr. C. Matthai.—There were more than 500 schools in the State, and the number of those not thrown open has gone down to eight. I think you will not have to wait long when all schools will be thrown open to all castes.

And then, as I said, we give special consideration to qualified men of his community. I have not refused an appointment to a graduate of his community. As regards another backward community, the Muhammadan community, I do not think any graduate who had applied for a post has been rejected. The trouble is, so far as Muhammadans are concerned, there are none available. For instance, I myself approached a young man who had passed the B. A. I wanted him for the Education Department, but he was allured by the more lucrative profession of law. And a second man I entertained in a Muhammadan School, and he remained there for one year. He got a better

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place in British service, and so he left us. And now there is one solitary Muhammadan graduate in the department. He was the only one I could get, and he is in charge of a Lower Secondary School which owes its existence to Mr. Kunju Muhammad.

As I have already said, we are waiting for a Pulaya boy to pass the III Form. There are now more than a dozen Pulaya boys reading in Lower Secondary classes. We have been waiting for a dozen years to see a boy reach at least the High School department, so that he could be given a place in a Pulaya school. After all, feeding Pulaya boys, and giving them clothes and such like, these things do not go very far. They must see that young men of their community can also rise to the same level as others, and when they get decent positions, that would be the best incentive. So we are trying our utmost to bring up Pulaya lads. But so far, not one of them has passed beyond the III Form.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, somebody here remarked that the coming year is characterised by a total absence of new schemes and the predominance of dull unmitigated routine work. In my opinion, this should be the general impression which stays in one's mind after studying the budget, for this will ensure that we are not launching on schemes which are ill-considered or revolutionar. The work that we have proposed for next year seems to be so well-known that they appear to be so old that one becomes impatient at seeing them again. But if one looks at the budget more closely, one is surprised to find that there are in it very many new schemes, and important works, which will prove to be of immense value.

I shall refer to irrigation first. This section has engaged our best attention for two reasons:—Firstly, due to their importance to our people who are agriculturists, and secondly, due to our having taken a special responsibility in this matter when we recommended that a committee for this purpose would not be useful. Three new works figure in the budget. They are improvements to the Enamakkal Dam, protective works for *Kole* cultivation and the Tannikkudom Project.

We had contemplated to do a good portion of the work at the Enamakkal Dam this year, but were unable to do so on account of the late receipt of the approval of the Madras Government who are in partnership with us to finance the work. My estimates have now been received, however, after the entire approval of the Madras Government, the contract has been given, and the work is in progress now. The failure of the *Kole* crops

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this year, due to exceptional causes, called for special protective works, for which provision is made in our budget. These works would consist in main arrangements for storing water in the *Munaakan* lands and deepening some of the channels in the *Kole* fields.

Then we have proposed the inauguration of the Tannikkudom Project. This scheme consists of putting up a dam, about 60 feet high, across the Kallayi stream at a site known by the name of Naduthodu. This stream takes its source from the forests around Tannikkudom, from its catchment area of about 11½ square miles. The rainfall is usually heavy in this area, and it precipitates in two seasons, one from June to August and the other from October to December.

The maximum discharge during the monsoons in this stream is comparatively great, which is about 6,000 cusces. By December, however, this discharge falls down considerably, and a little later it is scarcely more than a trickle. This is characteristic, of course, of all hill streams.

For *Mundakan* crops as a rule and for *Viruppu* crops to a less extent, artificial irrigaton is necessary in Cochin. The scheme, therefore, is in essence, designed for storing the water which falls during the two monsoons in an artificial reservoir to be distributed later to the *Mundakan* and *Viruppu* lands, as necessity arises. This reservoir will command the *Kole Ayacut* also, and it is claimed that there would be enough water in the reservoir to irrigate the *Kole* lands in all normal years, and in years of abnormal drought the situation could be eased to a great extent.

The capacity of the reservoir when full is estimated to be 379·43 million cubic feet. The area of water spread at the full reservoir level is 416 acres, with the height of the dam of 50 feet. There are other interesting points regarding the scheme. The bed level of the river is about 37 feet higher than the average elevation of the Trichur Town, while, with the proposed dam, it would be at least 62 feet above. This, of course, suggests the possibility of taking the water to the town where it is so much needed. The proposed reservoir, however, is so big that the quantity which would be taken by the town would be simply a drop from it, and would not affect the quantity available for irrigation.

This scheme, in my opinion, therefore, has a great claim for being taken up for execution, inasmuch as it will convert more of the single crop lands into double crop lands, guarantee

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full water supply to the *Kole* lands in all normal years, and contribute to the solving of the water problem in Trichur during the hot months.

The preliminary work of the reservoir area has been completed, and the figures I have given above were taken for the plans prepared. For the purposes of this meeting, I have approximately worked up a cost report, and the result is that I find a dam designed on prefectly safe and approved lines would cost about Rs. 4,80,000, and the compensation for the lands submerged will be about 22,700 rupees,—say, Rs. 5 lakhs roughly, in all.

This does not include the cost of constructing the channels for which surveys have yet to be ordered.

This scheme, if accomplished, will result in a permanent improvement in irrigation in the Trichur Taluk, and will, I am sure, be a forerunner of many other similar schemes which could be taken up here. From my observations for the last two years, I am convinced that we ought to take advantage of such natural facilities afforded to us, in the shape of our hills and mountains and the heavy rainfall with which we are blessed, by preserving the water during the monsoon, for use during the few summer months. The scheme is, therefore, absolutely right in conception, and is fairly large to be of material benefit to a large acreage of lands.

I am in a position to give you the assurance that its details will be worked out to the best of our ability, and it will not be launched before an independent favourable opinion is expressed from another competent source. These are all the usual precautions taken in projects of this nature, and they will be taken in this case. Any further particulars which any member would like to have I shall furnish now, as far as possible.

We have many more such schemes to push through, and there is need for fast work.

In the Chittur Taluk, where some of our real irrigation works are situated, we are proposing to spend another Rs. 12,000 next year in improving the Mulattara system.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—On a point of information, Sir, is there any proposal that the canal be diverted to two or three places?

President.—To which places do you refer?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I cannot mention their names accurately here.

President.—Will you kindly refer to them?

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—I do not exactly remember them.

President.—If there are any possibilities, we will experiment them.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Then, in such a case, they will bring more revenue to the Government.

President.—We want to increase the extent of cultivation in all possible ways.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are not now encouraging the cultivation of these new areas of land, because we are afraid that we may not be able to supply them with water.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—A large quantity of water is flowing over the dam.

President.—True, but we have to store up that water too. For that, we have to increase the catchment area or construct new *erees*. Water could be stored up for the cultivation of all the lands, and for that we have to register lands.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This year, within the short space of two months, we regraded the first two miles of canals whose beds were for the most part composed of hard granite. The results of the work were very satisfactory, and the capacity of the canals has increased considerably. The bunds of the canals lower down, however, are weak, which restrains us from sending down the full water supply. These bunds would, however, be strengthened with the allotment now sanctioned.

The drainage canal works proposed for the Muriyad lake deserve special mention. We were taking, for the last two years, careful readings of flood levels in the different parts of the State. This year's readings showed that the scheme of drainage is feasible.

In regard to communications we have scheduled for work, next year, three new roads. It is strange that this fact should have escaped the notice of these members, who complained on the inadequate provision for such works. One of them is the tie-road between Vaniampara and Chelakkara *via* Elanad; the other, a road to Rameswaram in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk, and the third is the improvement of the cart track between Kodakara and Vellikkulangara. The Poyya Panchayat President was kind enough to help me in the matter of the question of roads in Adur and surrounding places. He has sent me a complete list of them arranged in order of their urgency. I am ordering for a survey to be made to caste accurate estimates. Therefore, I wish to bring to the notice of this House that we

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are not at all neglecting the question of opening roads, in Adur or any place requiring them. As you all know, the freedom of action by Government agency is always bound by red-tapes, which, though sometimes seem to be inconvenience, are nevertheless necessary.

I heard it said in this House that our roads are in a deplorable condition. I think it was the Member for Landlords who was pleased to make that observation. While I may say that the roads are not as good as I wish them to be, I will leave it to the members who travel a good deal to judge whether it would be fair to class them as deplorable as a rule.

I have also heard it said that we do not pay sufficient attention to road works. To my mind, it appears that all possible care is being exercised in doing our road works, and that we are getting back full service for the money spent. The average good condition of all our roads bears testimony to the above statement.

One thing I must say in passing. Motor vehicles running in Cochin have increased very much during the past two years, and they call for a better condition of road surface than what is sufficient for road vehicles travelling at a slower pace.

We are now rising to the call for better roads by exercising all possible points in economy, though the annual allotments are much smaller than those allowed for first class roads in Travancore or British India.

I was sorry to hear in this Council an expression of dissatisfaction regarding certain building works for our Princes. I have had occasion to go into this question thoroughly, and I can assure you, Sir, that the works proposed are absolutely necessary for the proper housing of the members of our Royal Family. They are now put to a great deal of inconvenience in many ways, and it will appear that such expenditure is necessary to every right thinking citizen.

I do not wish to take any more of your time at present, as I think I will have to speak again, when I ask for demands.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—There is not much to be said against my department as so much on the Tramway side. Only one or two points were raised here against the Forest Department. One was raised by the Tattamangalam Member regarding the B—Form passes. The matter has been published in the Gazette some time ago, and criticisms were invited, and we were waiting for this year's inspection of some of the offices to see the result and the draft rules modified to make the changes

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permanent. So we will be able to do it in a few months' time.

Secondly, I think the Member for Nellayi spoke about the transport charges on Sirkar timber brought down by the Tramway. As worked out, the transport charges on timber to be brought for my department comes, in 1102, to Rs. 1,12,536.

President.—So do you say that the Tramway is necessary?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Yes. Sir, The private timber earnings come to Rs. 19,000. Both together come to Rs. 1,31,536. This does not take to credit the charges on timber and other produce brought down for the Tramway Department itself. If it is included, this will be above 1,54,000 and odd rupees, and the Tramway expenditure budgetted for next year is Rs. 1,57,300. So there is very little difference.

President.—This is the income.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—This is the book earning. The expenditure is Rs. 1,57,300. This is a little more than the income. The quantity of timber to be brought down next year is 12,320 candies, and the revenue would be Rs. 2,89,900; that is, of timber brought by the Tramway alone.

President.—The income from the Forest is 12,320 candies of timber, and the revenue from that is Rs. 2,89,900, and the expenditure on the Tramway is Rs. 1,57,300. You gave another figure, I suppose?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—That is the book earning of the Tramway towards timber brought down for the Forest Department. This is the value of timber realised.

President.—So we get Rs. 2,89,900 by sale of timber, for which we have to spend only Rs. 1,57,300. So there is a clear gain.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—There is a clear gain of Rs. 32,000 and odd.

President.—I suppose you calculate the revenue, including the value of timber and book earning and the expenditure which comes to Rs. 1,57,300. But how do you add the book earning?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—It comes to Rs. 1,54,000, against the actual expenditure of Rs. 1,57,000. The revenue earned by the sale of timber is actually a gain of one lakh and odd.

President.—But we will have to rely upon the value of timber that is brought by the Tramway rather than look to the booking charges. Suppose we employ another agency for bringing down timber?

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Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—There is no other agency able to take up the work.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—This is the only agency. No other agency can bring down timber. Many investigations have been made, and the Tramway is the only agency.

President.—So we are justified in working the Tramway?

Mr. K Govinda Menon.—If we are to bring down timber?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—There are trees 200 years old, and they are withering away, and they are to be cut down and sold.

President.—How can we give up this Tramway then?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—You can give up this Tramway, if you do not want timber and money.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Then the cheerakkadavu extension is also necessary.

President.—For the Cheerakkadavu extension, you have to incur initial expenditure. We are justified in maintaining the Tramway as long as timber is available for transport. You have estimated 12,000 and odd candies for next year.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—The aggregate quantity comes to 33,000 and odd for three years.

President.—Are you sure that you will get Rs. 2,89,900 next year?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—I am quite sure, Sir. We may get even a little more.

President.—If you do not get the money?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Then the money's worth of timber is there.

President.—I think this is a point where examination is necessary.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Rs. 2,89,900 the gross income—is a mistaken figure. I shall prove it. Rs. 2,89,900 is the gross income derived from the timber that will be brought down next year, from which the book earnings need not be taken into account at all.

President.—It is inclusive of this book earning.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—From that we deduct the maintenance charges of the Tramway, which comes to Rs. 1,57,000 and odd.

The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam said that, after Diwan Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar's time, the Government had

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withdrawn certain privileges given to Parayas and Pulayas. It was last year that we started giving acres of lands on lease for nominal sums.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I find there is a lot of cut motions relating to the Agricultural and Panchayat Department. So I think of reserving my remarks till the time of discussing these cut motions.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have very few observations to make. The Hon'ble Member for Trichur wanted the abolition of the Excise Department altogether and to amalgamate it with the establishment of the Diwan Peishkar, i. e., he wants to go back to a system which was in vogue more than a quarter of a century ago. At that time there was no Excise Department at all. There was only a Salt Superintendent with a staff consisting of 7 Aminadars, 9 Petty Officers and 65 men entertained temporarily for 6 months in a year, and their sole duty was to look after the suppression and prevention of Salt crimes. All the other activities now controlled by my department were administered by the Huzur. Such a system was found to be highly unsatisfactory, and the *Administration Reports of 1073, 1074 and 1075* will show that, in consequence of the system being found unsatisfactory, it was condemned, and at the instance of the British Government and also at the request of our Darbar, an experienced and trained officer in the person of Mr. Brown was got down from the British service towards the close of 1075. It was only after he took charge that the Excise Department proper was inaugurated in our State.

Now, the Excise Department in every civilised and progressive State is separated and presided over by a separate officer. It is not possible now to go back to a system which was condemned as unsatisfactory.

Another remark made by the Hon'ble Member was with regard to the increase of rentals of toddy shops for next year. He said that the increase in the rentals was sure to raise the price, and since it is the poor people who resort to toddy, they have to pay more, as a consequence of which their conditions are becoming precarious. In the first place, the increase of rentals for next year is not altogether unexpected. We had almost the same tentals for 1100, but there was deficit for 1101 on account of the unprecedented floods of 1099. So the fact that we are getting a higher rental for 1102 only shows that we have come back to normal conditions. In the next place, an increase in rentals alone does not necessarily cause an increase

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in prices. This year, though the rentals have fallen down, the price has not fallen down, and that, though the rentals of 1100 were higher than those of 1099, the price did not go higher in 1100.

Then, with regard to the manufacture of salt the question mooted out by the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi is; Why should not the State embark on the manufacture of salt? No doubt it is successfully carried on in Travancore. So far as I know, salt manufacture was never attempted here at any time within living memory.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did you see that salt was being manufactured here?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Conditions here are not at all favourable. In Southern Travancore there is less rain, and so it is successfully carried on there, but here we get more rain, and therefore, it is not possible to get a good crop, and further the salt that we may get here is not at all good. And considering the fact that we get salt here at the very low rate of 13 as. per maund, the manufacture of salt here may not be worth our while.

Another point is the abolition of license fee for jaggery tapping. This will engage the attention of the Excise Commitee that has been recently appointed by the Government.

President.—The General Discussion of the Budget is now brought to a close. The next business is the Election of 3 non-official members to the Standing Finance Committee of 1102 M. E. I request Mr. Kochunni Menon, the Deputy President, to preside over this business, after which the House will rise for the day.

The President then left the meeting and the Deputy President presided.

Election of Non-officials to the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, I propose that Messrs. K. T. Mathew, A. B. Salem and N. Padmanabha Menon be elected as members of the Finance Committee for 1102.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, I second it.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I propose Messrs. S. F. Nunez and A. Eachara Menon as members.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I beg to agree with the proposition.

Deputy President.—I beg to announce that, as a result of the ballot, the votes stand thus :—

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